Forest land for tribals in Kerala

1825. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has submitted any request for distribution of forest land to the tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would give permission to allot vested forests to the landless tribals in kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government of Kerala submitted a proposal to this Ministry during the year 1999 for diversion of 800 ha. of private forest vested in Government in various districts of Kerala for distribution to landless tribals. The proposal was not in the prescribed format and therefore the Government of Kerala was requested to submit the proposal in proper format.

This year, a proposal involving diversion of 12196.1829 ha. of forest land in kasargode, kannur, Wayanad, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode districts of Kerala for resttlement of tribals has been received from the Government of Kerala. The proposal was found lacking in compensatory afforestation scheme and therefore, returned to the State Government.

(c) and (d) Once the complete information pertainig to the proposal submitted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is received from the State Government, it can be discussed by the Forest Advisory Committee, a statutory body constituted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and thereafter suitable decision taken in the matter.

Environmental clearance to Cement Plants in H.P.

1826. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for clearance for Cement Plants at Chamba and Sunder Nagar in Himachal Pradesh; and